



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 312
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
April 14, 2003**

**Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Contact: Joseph N. Laplante
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1562 x 230**

OPERATION BEANTOWN

**MANCHESTER MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL
CRACK COCAINE DISTRIBUTION CHARGES**

Re: United States v. Raheem Rice

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, N.H. State Police Colonel Gary Sloper, and Manchester Police Chief Mark Driscoll announced that **Raheem “Ruckus” RICE**, date of birth of April 15, 1978, of Manchester, NH was convicted on April 11, 2003 to crack cocaine distribution charges.

RICE was arrested by Manchester and New Hampshire State Police officers on October 15, 2002, along with ten others, as part of their joint “Operation Beantown” investigation, so named because of its focus on alleged Boston-based drug traffickers that had relocated to Manchester. RICE’s brother, Garry Rice, and his mother, Marleena Rice, have also entered guilty pleas to crack distribution charges.

RICE entered his guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr. The charges state that RICE distributed cocaine base, also known as “crack cocaine,” in Manchester on August 15, 2002. Judge McAuliffe detained RICE without bail pending his sentencing hearing to scheduled during June, 2003 in the U.S. District Court in Concord. RICE faces a potential maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, “This case demonstrates our Office’s commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, including the street-level crack dealers operating in Manchester and New Hampshire’s other larger cities. Operation Beantown is a prime example of the effectiveness of cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in combating the disastrous impact of crack cocaine on our urban neighborhoods and their residents. This Office will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts.”

The conviction resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Manchester Police Department’s Special Investigations Unit and the N.H. State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.